(b) how many police officers have been found to be involved in the scandal; and

(c) what action has been taken against these police officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Home Affairs is aware of the alleged links of Abdul Karim Telgi with police officers. As per the information furnished by the Government of Maharashtra, investigation of stamp paper scam cases carried out by the Special Investigation Team has indicated involvement of eight serving and retired police officers (including one officer of IGP rank and one retired officer of ADGP rank) who have been arrested.

Pension to freedom fighters of Telengana areas in A.P.

1598. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether over thirteen thousand freedom fighters of Telengana areas in Andhra Pradesh recognized by Government of India as participants in the movement against the Nizam of Hyderabad, have still not been given the Swtantrata Sainik Samman Pension; and

(b) by when Government propose to sanction pension to these old people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SWAMI CHINMAYANAND): (a) The Government of India had constituted a Special Screening Committee to scrutinize the claims for Samman Pension on the grounds of participation of border camps during Hyderabad Liberation Movement. The last committee had recommended cases of about 13,500 applicants belonging to the State of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra. Since complaints were received about the cases recommended by the Committee, all these cases were referred to the concerned State Governments for verification of claims.

(b) On receipt of verification reports from the concerned State Governments, the cases of these applicants are examined as per provisions of the Swatantrata Sainik Samman Pension Scheme, 1980 and appropriate decision taken and communicated to them.